

Mike Milburn
Chair
Montana

Doug Grob
Montana

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

Ed Schriever
Idaho



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Thomas L (Les) Purce
Vice Chair
Washington

KC Golden
Washington

Margaret Hoffmann
Oregon

Charles F. Sams III
Oregon

Council Meeting Summary September 9 & 10, 2026 Council Central Office and via webinar 851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97204

This is a summary of the Council's September 2026 public meeting and the actions the Council decided upon. The meeting agenda and presentation materials for each agenda item during the meeting are posted at <https://www.nwcouncil.org/calendar/council-meeting-2026-09-09/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

September 9, 2026

Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff discussed draft staff recommendations resulting from the 2026 Lands Project Review, which represents the first set of existing and ongoing projects selected to undergo review using an updated and streamlined approach. The Committee suggested some minor changes and gave a thumbs up to sending the Committee recommendation to the full Council in October for a decision. Staff will incorporate the changes and share with Committee members by email soon after the September meeting. Staff also presented on possible next steps for the implementation of the 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program. This discussion will continue at the next Committee meeting in October as time ran short for full discussion.

Council meeting

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce,

Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 14 & 15 in Donnelly, ID, and via webinar.

Executive director report, Fish and Wildlife Committee report, and state updates

Executive Director Peter Cogswell shared that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is implementing the inflation adjustment, the schedule has been posted for public hearings on the draft Ninth Power Plan, and Council staff and Members are traveling to Washington D.C. to meet with the Northwest Congressional delegation and staff. He also announced Sonya Baskerville with BPA is retiring and expressed his appreciation for her time working with the Council.

Member Schriever provided an update from the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting on October 9, highlighting Council staff's presentations of draft recommendations on the 2026 Lands Project Review, and possible next steps for implementation of the 2026 Fish and Wildlife program.

Member Allen shared that he and Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis recently represented the Council at the Western Energy Summit in Boise, ID.

Council Meeting agenda items

1. Power Plan Update

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided an update on the overall public comment process, including a list of upcoming public hearings and other information. Director Light also provided a high-level analysis regarding approximate amounts of potential resources that could be added to the single target strategy assessed in Technical Appendix Q of the draft Plan.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20018/2026_09_1.pdf.

2. 2025 Regional Conservation Progress Report

Regional Technical Forum Manager Laura Thomas presented the 2026 Regional Conservation Progress (RCP) survey and report, which provides an update on the fourth year of the region's progress relative to the energy efficiency goals in the Council's 2021 Power Plan and details the savings acquired that support other goals of the 2021 Plan's conservation program.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20019/2026_09_2.pdf.

September 10, 2026

Council meeting

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person.

3. Avian predation on salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self and Idaho Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst Windy Schoby introduced Allen Evans of Real Time Research, who led the Council through highlights of the 2025 annual report on avian predation on salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin along with some preliminary results from the ongoing 2026 season. Evans also provided an update on recent changes in the size and species composition of piscivorous waterbirds on Crescent Island. James Lawonn with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who facilitates the informal Columbia Basin Avian Predation Workgroup, reported on updated data with attention to the lower Columbia River and estuary. Lawonn also led a discussion on the uncertainties related to managing avian colonies located on federal lands.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20020/2026_09_3.pdf.

4. Changing themes in Pacific salmon research and conservation

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Maureen Hess introduced Dr. Tom Quinn, Emeritus at the University of Washington and former ISAB and ISRP member, to present an overview of his 2025 paper on Changing Themes in Pacific Salmon Research and Conservation, published in Reviews in Fisheries Science & Aquaculture.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20021/2026_09_4.pdf.

5. Council Business

Motion to approve summary of the June 2026 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the August 2026 Council Meeting held in Seattle, Washington and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Sams seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the August 2026 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20026/2026_09_5minutes.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for GENESYS licensing and support (PSR)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with PSR Energy Solutions and Consulting Ltd in an amount not to exceed \$126,000 for continued licensing and support for the GENESYS model, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The decision memorandum is at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20025/2026_09_5psr.pdf.

Motion to authorize contract for government affairs services (Bluestone)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Bluestone Strategies in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to continue to secure government affairs consulting services during FY 2027, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The decision memorandum is at Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20022/2026_09_5bluestone.pdf.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Pacific Time.